

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
114TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1251, L.D. 1750, Bill, "An Act to Establish Finance Committee Districts and Procedures for Aroostook County"

Amend the bill by inserting at the beginning of the first line after the enacting clause (page 1, line 3 in L.D.) the following: 'Sec. 1.'

Further amend the bill in that part designated "§739." by striking out all of subsection 1 and inserting in its place the following:

'1. Membership. The finance committee shall consist of 9 members, 3 members from each commissioner district elected as provided in this subsection. The county commissioners shall designate 3 district subdivisions within each district from each of which one member of the finance committee shall be elected.

A. Finance committee members shall be elected on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November in each even-numbered year. The election shall be conducted and the results determined as provided for the election of county commissioners in section 61.

B. Before the first election of finance committee members, the county commissioners shall designate 5 district subdivisions for which members of the finance committee shall serve initial terms of 4 years, and 4 district subdivisions for which members of the finance committee shall serve initial terms of 2 years. All subsequent terms are for 4 years. The county commissioners shall reapportion these subdivisions after each Federal Decennial Census.

C. The finance committee shall annually elect a chair from among its members.

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D. A vacancy occurring on the finance committee shall be filled by the committee, subject to confirmation by a majority of the county commissioners, for the balance of the unexpired term. The person appointed to fill the vacant office must be from the same municipality or unorganized territory as the person vacating the office.

E. Members shall serve without compensation.

F. The county finance committee shall review and approve the budget and estimates, including the budget for municipal services in the unorganized territory prepared by the county commissioners.'

Further amend the bill in that part designated "§739-A." in the first paragraph in the 2nd line (page 2, line 26 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "the county courthouse" and inserting in its place the following: 'county buildings'

Further amend the bill in that part designated "§739-B." in subsection 3 in the 7th line (page 3, line 16 in L.D.) by striking out the following "registered or certified" and in the 7th and 8th lines (page 3, lines 16 and 17 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "with return receipt requested" and in the 8th and 9th lines (page 3, lines 17 and 18 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "with proof of receipt of the delivery."

Further amend the bill in that part designated "§739-B." in subsection 5 in the last line (page 3, line 40 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "will" and inserting in its place the following: 'shall'

Further amend the bill in that part designated "§739-C." in the first paragraph in the 6th line (page 4, line 6 in L.D.) by striking out the following "Legislature" and inserting in its place the following: 'finance committee' and in the 7th line (page 4, line 7 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "Legislature" and inserting in its place the following: 'finance committee' and in the last line (page 4, line 10 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "Legislature" and inserting in its place the following: 'finance committee'

Further amend the bill by inserting before the statement of fact the following:

Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act shall take effect for the purpose of electing finance committee members as provided in this Act upon the approval by the voters of Aroostook County of the recommendations of the Aroostook County Charter Commission. The finance committee shall perform the duties required under this Act beginning with the 1992 Aroostook County budget.'

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This amendment makes the following changes to the bill.

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1. The amendment provides for the popular election of the members of the finance committee. Three members will be elected from each county commissioner district, each representing a subdivision of the commissioner district. Members will serve for 4-year terms, except that initially 5 are elected for 4-year terms and 4 are elected for 2-year terms. The finance committee will elect a chair from among its members. Vacancies are filled by the finance committee, subject to confirmation by a majority of the county commissioners.

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2. The amendment provides that finance committee meetings need not be held solely in the county courthouse but may be held in any county building.

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3. The amendment deletes the requirement that the county obtain proof of delivery of the notice sent to each municipality regarding the proposed budget.

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4. The amendment provides that the bill does not take effect unless the voters approve the recommendations of the Aroostook County Charter Commission. If approved by the voters of Aroostook County, the finance committee members will be elected at the 1990 regular election and the finance committee will begin reviewing county budgets with the 1992 budget.

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5. Finally, the amendment makes various technical drafting corrections to the bill.

Reported by the Committee on State and Local Government
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